

Amdt. dated August 20, 2004
Reply to Office action of 05/20/2004

Serial No. 09/734,833
Docket No. STL920000081US1
Firm No. 0054.0030

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Objections

In claims 2, 6, 8, 12, 14, and 18 the term "corresponding to transaction" has been amended to "corresponding to the transaction."

The claim term "a visual indicia" has been amended to either "a first visual indicium" or a "second visual indicium" in the claims.

In claim 13, "a query the repository" has been amended to "a query in the repository." Applicants submit that the above amendments overcome the Examiners objection to the claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 18 have been amended to change the limitation "which source files and which interfaces" to "which of the sources files and which of the interfaces". New requirements have been added to the claims to provide proper antecedent basis.

Claims 2, 6, 8, 12, 14, and 18 have been amended to change the limitation "the link to an entry point" to "a link to an entry point".

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 18 have been amended to add the limitation "wherein original locations store information about sources files and interfaces comprising application programs". Applicants maintain that the added limitation describes storing information about the source files and interfaces.

Applicants submit that the above amendments overcome the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mutschler (US 6,253,366) in view of Schultz (5,640,553). Applicants traverse.

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Independent Claims 1, 7 and 13

Amended independent claims 1, 7, and 13 require identifying an interface of an application program comprising the interface and source code, by:

- parsing the source code of the application program to identify meta information;
- storing in a repository the meta information and a link pointing to an original location of the meta information within the application program, wherein original locations store information about sources files and interfaces comprising application programs;
- allowing a user to query the repository to determine which of the source files and which of the interfaces comprise the application program;
- constructing a new source file containing the interfaces which comprise the application program;
- storing the new source file and a link pointing to a location of the new source file in the repository; and
- constructing a meta language document containing a description of the application program interfaces to enable a connector building tool to build an interface to the application program.;

Apart from correcting grammatical errors, the original independent claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended to include the limitation that the original locations store information about source files and interfaces comprising application programs. The added requirements may be found in at least FIG. 2 and in page 10, lines 1-28 of the Application.

Nowhere does the cited Mutschler (col. 2: lines 43-48; Fig. 2; col. 5: lines 21-23; col 4, lines 48-60; col. 5: lines 13-15) or the cited Schultz (col. 4, lines 11-14) teach or suggest the claim requirement of storing in a repository the meta information and a link pointing to an

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original location of the meta information within the application program, wherein original locations store information about sources files and interfaces comprising application programs.

The Examiner has mentioned that the storage of a meta-model and the application model in the repository of FIG. 2 of the cited Mutschler, and the repository methods of cataloging, browsing, modeling, and managing components that make up an application (as discussed in col. 5, lines 21-23 of the cited Mutschler) teaches the claim requirement of storing in a repository the meta information and a link pointing to an original location of the meta information within the application program. However, while FIG. 2 of the cited Mutschler shows that the repository is linked to the DTD generator (Mutschler: reference numeral 19) and to repository services (Mutschler: reference numeral 19) nowhere does the cited Mutschler teach or disclose the claim requirement of storing in the repository a link pointing on an original location of the meta information within the application program. The links in the repository of the cite Mutschler point to a DTD generator and repository services, whereas the claims require the link in the repository to point to an original location of the meta information within the application.

The cited Schultz discusses a method for searching a database in response to a query and nowhere does the cited Schultz teach the claim requirement of storing in a repository the meta information and a link pointing to an original location of the meta information within the application program. Therefore neither the cited Mutschler nor the cited Schultz teach or suggest the claim requirement of storing in a repository the meta information and a link pointing to an original location of the meta information within the application program, wherein the original location stores information about sources files and interfaces comprising application programs. Hence, claims 1, 7, and 13 are patentable over the cited art either alone or in combination.

The claim further require constructing a new source file containing the interfaces which comprise the application program; storing the new source file and a link pointing to a location of the new source file in the repository; and constructing a meta language document containing a description of the application program interfaces to enable a connector building tool to build an interface to the application program. The examiner mentions that the creation of an XMI DTD

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file in the cited Mutschler teaches these claim requirements. However, according to the cited Mutschler (col. 4: lines 51-60), "A DTD is a set of rules governing the element types that are allowed within an XML document and rules specifying the allowed content and attributes of each element type. The DTD also declares all the external entities referenced within the document and the notations that can be used. Stated otherwise, an XML DTD provides a means by which an XML processor can validate the syntax and some of the semantics of an XML document. An XML DTD specifies the particular elements allowed in an XML document." Therefore, in the cited Mutschler an XML DTD comprises elements that are allowed in a document, i.e., the DTD contains elements that can potentially be allowed in a document, without the document actually having the elements. However, the claims require constructing a new source file containing the interfaces which comprise the application program.. Therefore, the new source file required by the claims includes the additional requirement that the new source file includes the interfaces of the application programs. The DTD of the cited Mutschler would include all potential elements that can be allowed in a document. Additionally, a DTD of the cited Mutschler has elements and attributes. These elements and attributes in the cited Mutschler are also different from the claim requirement of the application program interfaces. Furthermore, the claims require a new source file and a meta language document, whereas the cited Mutschler discusses generating only a DTD, i.e., the cited Mutschler does not teach or suggest a new source file and a meta language document as required by the claims. Additionally, nowhere does the cited Schultz teach or suggest the claim requirement of constructing a new source file containing the interfaces which comprise the application program; storing the new source file and a link pointing to a location of the new source file in the repository; and constructing a meta language document containing a description of the application program interfaces to enable a connector building tool to build an interface to the application program. Hence, claims 1, 7, and 13 are patentable over the cited art either alone or in combination.

Even if for the sake of arguments, the cited Mutschler taught or suggested all claim requirements except the claim requirement of allowing a user to query the repository to

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determine which of the source files and which of the interfaces comprise the application program, the cited Schultz (col. 4, lines 11-14) does not teach or suggest the claim requirement of allowing a user to query the repository to determine which of the source files and which of the interfaces comprise the application program. Col. 4, lines 11-14 of the cited Schultz discusses a search query to simultaneously identify document records and multi-media records corresponding to a single search query. The document records and the multi-media records of the cited Schultz can be both files but are different from the interfaces of the claim requirements. Therefore the cited Schultz does not teach or suggest querying the repository to determine which of the interfaces comprise the application program. Hence, neither the cited Mutschler nor the cited Schultz teach or suggest the claim requirement of allowing a user to query the repository to determine which of the source files and which of the interfaces comprise the application program.

Additionally, according to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) §2143.01 "fact that references can be combined or modified is not sufficient to establish prima facie obviousness" and "the mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination." Even if for the sake of arguments, the cited Schultz taught the claim requirement of allowing a user to query the repository to determine which of the source files and which of the interfaces comprise the application program, neither the cited Schultz nor the cited Mutschler provide any suggestion for the desirability of the claimed combination. Applicants submit that the Examiner's proposed modification of Schultz is improper because the Examiner has not provided any objective teaching of a suggestion or proper motivation to indicate that the method for retrieving documents and multimedia records from an index discussed in the cited Schultz can be combined with the claim requirements for storing in a repository the meta information, and constructing a meta language document containing a description of the application program interfaces. The motivation in col. 2, lines 59-63 of the cited Schultz is for providing a searching and retrieval system that can query a library or database and identify not only text documents, but

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also multi-media files stored on the library or database that are relevant to the query. Applicants submit that the motivation of the cited Schultz is improper because the cited Schultz provides no motivation for combining the claim requirement of allowing a user to query the repository to determine which of the source files and which of the interfaces comprise the application program with the claim requirements of storing in a repository the meta information, and constructing a meta language document containing a description of the application program interfaces as required by the claims. Therefore, neither the cited Schultz nor the cited Mutschler provide any suggestion for the desirability of the claimed combination and the proposed motivation of col. 2, lines 59-63 of the cited Schultz is inadequate and improper.

For the above reasons, independent claims 1, 7, and 13 are patentable over the cited Mutschler and the cited Schultz because neither the cited Mutschler nor the cited Schultz, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

Claims 2-5, 8-11, 14-17

The Examiner has also rejected pending claims 2-5, 8-11, and 14-17 that depend on the pending independent claims 1, 7, and 13 respectively. Applicants submit that these claims are patentable over the cited art because they depend from claims 1, 7, and 13 respectively which are patentable over the cited art for the reason discussed above, and because the combination of the limitations in the dependent claims 2-5, 8-11, and 14-17 and the base and intervening claims from which they depend provide further grounds of distinction over the cited art.

Claims 2, 8, 14

Amended claims 2, 8, 14 depend on claims 1, 7, 13 respectively and further require for a transaction contained in the application program, displaying a first visual indicium which navigates via a link to an entry point of the source code corresponding to the transaction.

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Nowhere does the cited Schultz (FIG. 4A, col. 17: lines 7-10) or the cited Mutschler teach or suggest the claim requirement of a first visual indicium which navigates via a link to an entry point of the source code. While there are many visual indicia in the cited Schultz none of the visual indicia of the cited Schultz navigates via a link to an entry of the source code as required by the claims. In fact, nowhere does the cited Schultz teach or suggest entry points of source code as required by the claims.

Claims 3, 9, 15

Amended claims 3, 9, and 15 depend on claims 2, 8, and 14 respectively and further require displaying the transaction contained in the application program together with a second visual indicium which navigates to documentation stored in the repository corresponding to the transaction.

Nowhere does the cited Schultz (FIG. 4A) or the cited Mutschler teach or suggest the claim requirement of displaying the transaction contained in the application program together with a second visual indicium which navigates to documentation stored in the repository corresponding to the transaction. While the cited Schultz discusses a visual indicium to a document, nowhere does the cited Schultz teach or disclose the additional claim requirement that the document corresponds to the transaction in the application program as required by the claims.

Claims 4, 10, 16

Claims 4, 10, 16 depend on claims 3, 9, 15 respectively and further comprises:

- allowing the user to select the transaction;
- displaying a data structure corresponding to the selected transaction;
- allowing the user to select the data structure; and
- for the selected data structure, computing input and output fields and overlaying the fields on the selected data structure.

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Nowhere does the cited Schultz (FIG. 4A, col. 7: lines 7-10; col 7, lines 38-41; col. 15: lines 38-41) or the cited Mutschler teach or suggest overlaying the input and output fields on the selected data structure as required by the claims. The composite document window 348a shown in FIG. 4c of the cited Schultz does not teach or suggest overlaying the input and output files on the selected data structure as required by the claims.

Claims 5, 11, 17

Claims 5, 11, 17 depend on claims 4, 10, 16 respectively and further comprises:

- allowing the user to edit the computed fields; and
- analyzing the selections and editions to determine if an error exists.

Nowhere does the cited Schultz (col. 13: lines 31-41, col. 12, lines 36-45) or the cited Mutschler teach or suggest the allowing the user to edit the computed output fields as required by the claims. The copy, cut, and past operations discussed in the cited Schultz does not teach or suggest editing the computed output fields.

Claims 6, 12, 18

Claims 6, 12, and 18 are patentable for the reasons provided for the patentability of claims 1-5, 7-11, and 14-18.

Six New Claims

Applicants have added six new claims numbered 19-24.

Conclusion

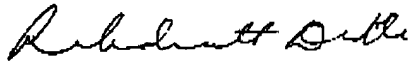
For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-24 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants have not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0460.

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The attorney/agent invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 557-2292 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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